

**NEVER GIVE UP**

Luke 18:1-8

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

# THE HEART OF PRAYER

- ◉ Intimate fellowship with God
- ◉ God is the initiator of prayer
- ◉ Listening and responding in love
- ◉ Context: Our human frailty

# THE SUBSTANCE OF PRAYER: FAITH

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

- ⦿ Whatever seems **humanly impossible** is made possible through praying in faith
- ⦿ Faith is **trusting in Jesus** and **persevering in the midst of doubt**
- ⦿ Faith is really believing **what God says in His Word** and this often involves **action** and **risk-taking**.

# THE LOGIC OF PRAYER

Our prayers make a real difference.

“You do not have because you do not ask”

If things were going to happen anyway, what would be the purpose of prayer? God has apparently given Himself a self-imposed restriction – to act in the affairs of man in response to prayer.

(Bill Johnson, “When Heaven Invades Earth”)

- God has chosen to work through us.

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# HEART, SUBSTANCE, LOGIC OF PRAYER

“When humanity fell into sin,  
our souls were not only cut off from God,  
but the whole wiring system was destroyed.  
To restore it, Jesus had to suffer and die.

The wiring is now in order again.  
We may all [by faith] re-establish contact with,  
and make use of,  
the powers of the heavenly world.”

# HEART, SUBSTANCE, LOGIC OF PRAYER

"It is by prayer that we **couple the powers of heaven** to our helplessness, the powers which can turn water into wine and remove mountains in our own life and in the lives of others, the powers which can awaken those who sleep in sin, and raise up the dead, the powers which can capture strongholds and make the impossible possible."

(O Hallsby, "Prayer")



# NEVER GIVE UP

- ⦿ Persevering prayer is the most difficult prayer
- ⦿ P.U.S.H?
- ⦿ PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS!
- ⦿ Persevering prayer honors and pleases God
- ⦿ Do not give up praying. Expect great things from God.

# GOD DESIRES TO ANSWER PRAYER

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Psalm 84:11

# PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

What do we know about the judge?

1. He did not fear God
2. He did not care about people
3. He was unjust
4. He could not be bothered with the widow's problem
5. He was unwilling to help her at first

## PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

What do we know about the widow?

1. She had an adversary
2. She was in extreme helplessness
3. She had a genuine need
4. She had no one to turn to for help
5. She was persistent

## KEY POINTS

### 1. God is not like the unjust judge

And will not God bring justice for this chosen one who cry out to him day and night?

Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice and quickly.

Luke 18:7-8b

## KEY POINTS

### 1. God is not like the unjust judge

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; know and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who seeks find; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11:9-13

## KEY POINTS

### 1. God is not like the unjust judge

What do we know about God?

- He is good
- He is all-knowing
- He is a just Judge
- He is a loving Father

## KEY POINTS

1. God is not like the unjust judge
2. Pray with an attitude like that of the widow.

What are you praying for right now?

**PRAY** for **PERSEVERANCE**



Will God give us everything we pray for when we persist in our prayers?



# LUKE 11:2-4

2 So He said to them, When you pray, say:  
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done**

On earth as it is in heaven.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins,

For we also forgive everyone  
who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.

# NEVER GIVE UP

The most difficult prayer, and the prayer which, therefore costs us the most striving, is **persevering prayer**, the prayer which faints not, but continues steadfastly until the answers come.

To strive in prayer for a person or for a cause means in the first place, to live, feel and suffer with that person or that cause.

That alone requires a great struggle especially if we are not related to the person concerned by blood or friendship.

# NEVER GIVE UP

In the second place, to strive in prayer means to struggle through those hindrances that would restrain or even prevent us entirely from continuing in persevering prayer. It means to be watchful at all times that we can notice that we become slothful in prayer and go to the Spirit of prayer to have this remedied. In this struggle too, the decisive factor is the Spirit of prayer.

(O Hallesby, "Prayer")